

ALL WALES MEDICINES STRATEGY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

4th JUNE 2003 COMMENCING 9.30 AM IN THE GALLERY MEETING ROOM OF

THE NORTH EAST WALES INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MOLD, WREXHAM, LL11 2AW

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|-----|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | Dr Paul Buss | NHS Consultant representative |
| 2. | Mr Jeffrey Evans | Consultant Paediatrician, Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust
Representing other healthcare professionals eligible to prescribe |
| 3. | Dr David Gozzard | Senior Lecturer in Podiatry & Podiatric Surgeon
Wales Centre for Podiatric Studies, UWIC, Cardiff |
| 4. | Mr Peter Harsant | Medical Director representative
Consultant Haematologist & Medical Director
Conwy & Denbighshire NH Trust |
| 5. | Mrs Susan Hobbs | Industry representative
Norgine Limited, Uxbridge, Middlesex |
| 6. | Councillor Meurig Hughes | NHS Trust Nurse Director representative
Chief Nurse, Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust |
| 7. | Dr Thomas Lau | Lay member representative
Llangefni, Ynys Mon |
| 8. | Mr David Morgan | LHG prescribing lead representative
Lliswery Medical Centre, Newport |
| 9. | Dr Ceri Phillips | Pharmaceutical Public Health representative
Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health, National Public Health Service, North Wales Region |
| 10. | Mr Mike Pollard | Health Economics representative
Reader in Health Economics, School of Health Science, Swansea University |
| 11. | Professor Roger Walker | Chief Pharmacist representative
Chief Pharmacist, North East Wales NHS Trust
Chairman AWMSG
Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health
National Public Health Service, South East Wales Region |

IN ATTENDANCE:

- | | | |
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| 12. | Dr Emma Lam | Welsh Medicines Partnership |
| 13. | Mrs Ruth Lang | Minutes (Welsh Medicines Partnership) |
| 14. | Mrs Carolyn Poulter | Head of Pharmaceutical Services Branch
Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff |
| 15. | Mrs Karen Samuels | Welsh Medicines Partnership |
| 16. | Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells | Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser
Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff |

List of Abbreviations:

AWMSG – All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

AWPAG – All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group

HCW – Health Commission Wales
LHB – Local Health Board
WAG – Welsh Assembly Government
WICS – Welsh Intensive Care Society
WMP – Welsh Medicines Partnership

Action

4/1. Welcome and Introduction

Meurig Hughes welcomed members and visitors to the fourth meeting of AWMSG. The Chairman welcomed Emma Lam of the Welsh Medicines Partnership to her first meeting and introduced Jamie Hayes, the newly appointed Director of WeMeReC who is due to take up his appointment on 1st September.

AWMSG members introduced themselves to the audience.

4/2. Apologies

Miss Sian Evans
Mrs Kathryn Bourne
Dr Quentin Sandifer

4/3. Declarations of interests

There no were declarations of interest

4/4. Minutes of previous meeting

The Chairman confirmed that a nomination had been received for the outstanding vacancy for representation from Directors of Finance. Welsh Assembly Government will process the nomination.

3/12 Implementation of Nurse Reporting of Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions

Reference is made to nurse training in 'advanced life support'. This should read 'basic life support'.

3/4.4 Update on MS Risk Sharing Scheme

It was agreed that the MS Risk Sharing Scheme should remain on the AWMSG agenda for ongoing review.

3/8 Leflunomide Toxicity

Suggested headings for a shared care template protocol have been displayed on the AWMSG website together with links to relevant resources.

4/5. Matters arising

4/5.1 Update on NHS-Industry Forum

David Morgan, Chairman of the NHS-Industry Forum, presented Enc No. 2/AWMSG/0603 to the Group and confirmed the next meeting will be held in Mold on 15th July 2003. The Vice Chairman of the Forum, Richard Greville, the newly appointed ABPI Director for Wales, was introduced to the Group.

The Group discussed Appendix 2, the future work programme of the NHS Industry Forum, and agreed this was unspecific and open to misinterpretation, particularly if displayed on the AWMSG web page. The Chairman asked the Forum to clarify the work programme at their next meeting. The Forum was asked to consider the code of conduct between the industry and the NHS, associated sponsorship and the recent National Audit Office report on the Procurement of Primary Care Medicines.

4/5.2 Update on All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group

Carolyn Poulter confirmed that invitations for nominations had been circulated widely and a large number had been received for the representative posts in South and West Wales. Four vacant posts for North Wales remain unfilled (two GP and two pharmacy). A verbal invitation was extended to those present to encourage

applications from suitable candidates. Tom Lau, Chairman of AWPAG, confirmed an induction meeting would be held before the next AWMSG meeting in September. CP

4/5.3 Update on Prescribing Indicators

Karen Samuels confirmed that the paper on prescribing indicators put forward by WMP at the previous AWMSG meeting had been progressed. The Group was informed that the current LHB indicators, developed by prescribing advisers, would continue to be available during 2003/2004 and the AWMSG indicators would run in parallel throughout this period. Thereafter, AWPAG would develop the indicator basket for 2004/05. The Group was also informed of the intention to report hypnotic, anxiolytic and antibiotic prescribing rates as defined daily doses. The following indicators would also be reported for the first time in Wales, but no targets were to be set:

- Percent generic medicines dispensed
- Prescribing rate of new black triangle drugs
- Drugs classified in the BNF as less suitable for prescribing

The statin indicator had been adapted and incorporated under the generic prescribing heading. The Data for AWMSG indicators for April-June 2003 would be available to LHBs (with targets where appropriate) in August 2003. A report will be presented by WMP at the September meeting. WMP

The Chairman acknowledged the support of Health Solutions Wales in progressing the work on the indicators.

4/5.4 LHB prescribing budgets

Carolyn Poulter informed the Group that a paper entitled Local Health Board Revenue Allocations was available on the AWMSG website.

It was noted that the allocation for 2003/04 was, in effect, the out-turn for 2002/03. This was unfair on LHBs and would make it difficult for them to meet the demanding prescribing agenda. The Chairman expressed the Group's disappointment that an opportunity for discussion and input had not been extended to AWMSG prior to the release of the allocation budgets. AWMSG asked WAG for an opportunity to discuss the prescribing budget allocation in the next financial year. Carolyn Poulter agreed to take the comments back to WAG and invite Dr Christine Daws, the newly appointed Finance Director, to a forthcoming meeting. The Chairman reiterated the need for dialogue with WAG on issues relating to prescribing and budget allocations. CP

4/5.5 Update on roles and structures of prescribing committees

The Chairman informed the Group that this document would be distributed throughout the service within the next ten days. Issues relating to the delay of distribution were acknowledged. AWMSG proposals would be reinforced by WAG in an accompanying letter. David Gozzard agreed to raise the issue at the next meeting of the All Wales Medical Directors. WMP/
WAG/
DG

The structures of prescribing committees will be reviewed by AWMSG in April 2004.

4/5.6 Update on supplementary prescribing

Carwen Wynne-Howells confirmed that the legislative changes were in place as of April 2003 and the £500,000 to support the training of 250 nurses and pharmacists was now available. Members of the Task and Finish Group on Supplementary Prescribing would be appointed within the coming weeks. The whole project will be operated according to 'modified PRINCE methodology'. The intention is to appoint a project manager with administrative support to manage the project. The Task and Finish Group will act as the project board, with a Quality Assurance Group feeding into

it. An action plan has been prepared, with time lines, to commence training in January 2004. A letter will be distributed to LHBs and Trusts within the next ten days seeking an indication of the number of individuals likely to be put forward for training. Ministerial approval to start the process is currently awaited but the intention is that the Task and Finish Group will hold its first meeting some time during July/August. It was noted that every effort would be made to secure additional funding to ensure training opportunities remained, long-term, once the first tranche of monies were utilised.

WAG

The Chairman confirmed that the Task and Finish Group would be a sub-group of AWMSG and Kathryn Bourne be a member of the Task and Finish Group. The Chairman agreed to discuss the operation of the Task and Finish Group with Carwen Wynne-Howells.

CWH/
RW

4/5.7 Update on incentive schemes

Carolyn Poulter reported that WAG had issued Welsh Health Circular 2003(62) in April. This guidance provided advice on prescribing incentive schemes and clarified a number of issues for LHBs.

4/5.8 Update on drotrecogin alfa

Emma Lam reported that at its March 2003 meeting AWMSG recommended that drotrecogin alfa should be approved for treatment within NHS Wales with the following restrictions:

- Inclusion and exclusion criteria to be as set out in the PROWESS study.
- The Welsh Intensive Care Society to agree standards and audit criteria with WMP/AWMSG.
- Ability of units to meet the standards set out in the audit and contribute the necessary data sets.
- Audit outcomes to be presented to AWMSG in 12 months time.

Despite attempts by WMP to progress the issue, no information had been received from the Welsh Intensive Care Society. It was regrettable that the use of drotrecogin alfa could not be supported by AWMSG until the restrictions set out were met in full and the requisite information provided by WICS.

The Group discussed their concerns and considered imposing a time limit. The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the lack of progress and urged the professional body to respond with urgency.

WMP

4/6. Procurement of primary care medicines

Carolyn Poulter outlined Enc No. 3/AWMSG/0603 and asked AWMSG to note the publication of the National Audit Office's report, "Procurement of Primary Care Medicines" and be aware that, subject to the Assembly's Audit Committee's views, AWMSG may be asked to advise on the setting up, running and evaluation of central procurement pilots in Wales.

The Group discussed the general issues and ***it was agreed*** that a special meeting should be arranged to respond, within the expected 30-day timescale, to the Audit Committee's recommendations. The Chairman reiterated the need for AWMSG to be involved in the process, as the work programme for the Group was an integral part of the recommendations set out in the report. For example, AWMSG were already involved in setting targets for generic prescribing, had set up a group to support training of supplementary prescribers, and were addressing the monitoring of drugs identified as less suitable for prescribing.

With respect to central procurement, the Chairman drew attention to the statement in the report that “achieving savings from centralised procurement would not be straightforward for Wales acting alone”. If centralised procurement were to be progressed it was logical AWMSG be involved in the process. However, there was no evidence presented in the report that centralised procurement of primary care medicines would present opportunities to improve value for money. Attention was drawn to recent reports of shortages of selected medicines in the Irish Republic following negotiation of low prices and the subsequent purchase of these lines by sources in England. The Chairman also considered it essential that before central procurement could be progressed more detailed investigation of the likely impact on the pharmaceutical industry, community pharmacies, dispensing practices, CP wholesalers, general practitioners and consumers should be undertaken.

4/7. Communication process for therapeutic development assessments

Karen Samuels outlined Enc. No. 4/AWMSG/0603. The aim was to provide a clear and concise guide to AWMSG's process for dealing with submissions for assessment. Peter Harsant proposed a series of amendments to be incorporated into the final document.

WMP

4/8. Changes to therapeutic development assessment forms

Karen Samuels outlined Enc. No. 5/AWMSG/0603 and informed the Group that the therapeutic development assessment form (and accompanying guidance notes) had been amended in format only to simplify the original document.

WMP

4/9. Herbal Medicines Regulatory Working Group (HMRWG)

The consultation document, Enc No. 6/AWMSG/0603, had been submitted by the Herbal Medicines Regulatory Working Group (HMRWG). Its remit was twofold, to make recommendations on the professional regulation of herbal practitioners and assure the safety and quality of herbal remedies supplied. The Group discussed the general issues but were disappointed that no one from HMRWG had attended the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that AWMSG supported the concept of professional regulation of herbal practitioners and endorsed the demands for stronger regulations regarding safety, quality, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of associated therapies.

4/10. European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption (ESAC)

The Chairman reported he had attended a regional meeting of ESAC along with representatives of Health Solutions Wales. The ESAC network was co-ordinated by a group based at the University of Antwerp. More than 30 countries were currently contributing antimicrobial prescribing data and participation would allow comparison of prescribing patterns with other countries. It was agreed AWMSG should support participation in the database. Mike Pollard agreed to brief Chief Pharmacists with respect to the use of secondary care data.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held in the Council Offices, Swansea on 4th September 2003. Details will be posted on the website.